



APRIL 2005

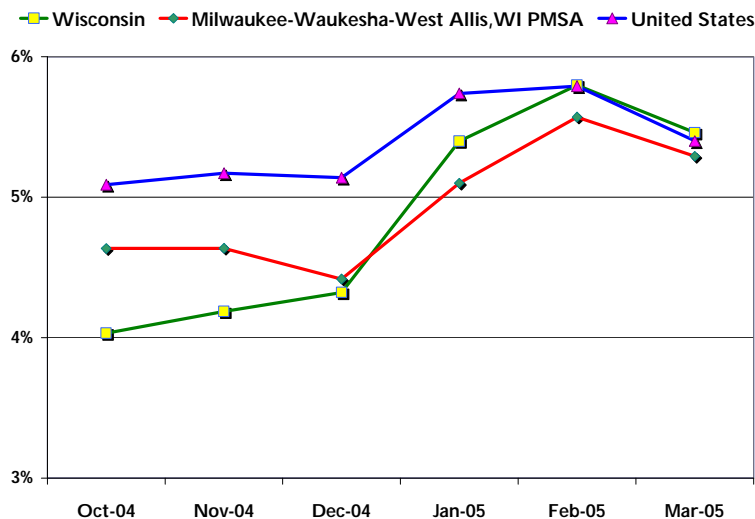
### METRO AREA CONTINUES OVERALL JOB GROWTH IN MARCH

**Milwaukee County's** unemployment rate in March was 6.0 percent. This rate decreased from February's rate by three-tenths of a percentage point. The county's labor force at this time has approximately 1,900 fewer employed residents and 5,600 fewer unemployed resulting in a significantly lower unemployment rate, 1.1 percentage point lower than in March 2004.

**Washington County's** unemployment rate in March was 4.8 percent decreasing four-tenths of a percentage point, monthly. The county's unemployment rate was 5.6 percent in March 2005. Washington County's labor force, on an annual basis, shows close to 300 fewer employed and almost 600 fewer unemployed.

**Ozaukee County's** unemployment rate was 4.0 percent in March, decreasing slightly over the month by one-tenth of percentage point. Ozaukee tied with Calumet County for the state's second lowest unemployment rate in March. Ozaukee County's labor force has close to 200 fewer employed as well 300 fewer unemployed compared to March 2004. Its unemployment rate is five-tenths of a percentage point lower than what it was last March.

#### Six-Month Unemployment Rate Watch



**Waukesha County's** unemployment rate was 4.2 percent in March, down three-tenths of a percentage point from February. Annually, the county's labor force has close to 900 fewer employed residents and just over 2,000 fewer unemployed resulting in an unemployment rate that is nine-tenths of a percentage point lower than in March 2004.

The unemployment rate in the **Milwaukee-Waukesha-West**

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA counties: March 2005

	Wisconsin			Milwaukee-Waukesha-W. Allis MSA			Milwaukee County		
	Mar-05	Feb-05	Mar-04	Mar-05	Feb-05	Mar-04	Mar-05	Feb-05	Mar-04
Labor force	3,027,584	3,046,140	3,060,197	794,973	801,327	806,703	463,739	467,399	471,204
Employed	2,862,303	2,869,500	2,869,480	752,907	756,690	756,169	435,931	438,122	437,820
Unemployed	165,281	176,640	190,717	42,066	44,637	50,534	27,808	29,277	33,384
% Unemployed	5.5%	5.8%	6.2%	5.3%	5.6%	6.3%	6.0%	6.3%	7.1%
	Washington County			Ozaukee County			Waukesha County		
	Mar-05	Feb-05	Mar-04	Mar-05	Feb-05	Mar-04	Mar-05	Feb-05	Mar-04
Labor force	71,092	71,725	71,966	47,664	47,980	48,148	212,477	214,223	215,385
Employed	67,655	67,995	67,948	45,760	45,990	45,959	203,560	204,583	204,442
Unemployed	3,437	3,730	4,018	1,904	1,990	2,189	8,917	9,640	10,943
% Unemployed	4.8%	5.2%	5.6%	4.0%	4.1%	4.5%	4.2%	4.5%	5.1%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and current month's data are preliminary

## Industry Employment Estimates for the Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA: March 2005

Place of Work Employment in 1,000's	Wisconsin			Milw'kee-Wauk-W. Allis MSA		
	March 2005	Change since Feb. 2005	Change since March. 2004	March 2005	Change since Feb. 2005	Change since March. 2004
All Industries	2,776.1	15.8	31.8	828.1	1.8	5.3
Construction/Natural Resources	118.4	2.0	4.2	31.4	0.7	1.1
Manufacturing	500.9	2.5	6.4	135.5	0.3	1.9
Retail Trade	308.3	0.0	0.2	80.8	0.0	-0.6
Wholesale Trade	114.3	0.5	1.9	39.3	0.0	0.4
Transport/Warehouse/Utilities	106.0	0.5	1.8	30.2	0.2	-0.1
Financial Activities	157.3	0.4	0.6	56.0	0.1	-1.4
Education and Health Services	383.9	0.6	11.9	134.3	0.2	4.0
Leisure and Hospitality	235.9	3.2	3.3	61.8	0.1	-0.9
Info./Prof./Bus.and Other Services	427.9	4.7	0.3	165.8	0.2	3.2
Information	51.0	0.7	1.1	18.5	0.0	0.0
Professional and Business Services	243.2	3.3	-0.1	106.0	0.1	3.0
Other Services	133.7	0.7	-0.7	41.3	0.1	0.2
Fed/State/Local Government	423.2	1.4	1.2	93.0	0.0	-2.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Current Employment Statistics. Figures are rounded and may not sum to total. Current month's figures are preliminary

**Allis MSA** was 5.3 percent in March. This is the first March unemployment rate for the metro area under six percent since the 4.4 percent clip measured in March 2001. It is lower than February's final rate by three-tenths of a percentage point.

Annually, the metro area labor force has approximately 3,300 fewer employed and almost 8,500 fewer unemployed compared to March 2004. Its unemployment rate is exactly one percent point lower than in March 2004. The total labor force shows an annual reduction of 11,700 total participants annually.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics nonfarm wage and salary employment survey, the number of jobs in the **Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis MSA** totaled 828,100 in March. This total equaled a net overall gain 1,800 jobs over the month. This monthly rise in the number of jobs was lower than average given that the metro area over the last decade usually gained about 4,000 total jobs between February and March.

The monthly jobs numbers were

mainly positive in growth, if not a bit subdued. There were only a few industries that showed employment losses namely professional, technical and scientific services (-100 jobs); management of companies and enterprises (-100 jobs); local government (-100 jobs); and durable goods manufacturing (-100 jobs). The industry sector that gained the most jobs over the month was construction with 700 more jobs. In a broader monthly view, goods-producing employment gained 1,000 jobs over the month and services-providing sectors increased by 800 jobs. It was the services sectors' growth, which was below average and the goods-producing sectors were average, if not slightly above average in growth.

Annually, the metro area jobs tally increased by 5,300 jobs in overall terms. March was the tenth consecutive month for the MSA to show annual total nonfarm job growth. The most significant job gain, annually, was in education and health services having grown by 4,000 jobs. Professional and business services gained 3,000 jobs. Manufacturing employment increased by 1,900 jobs.

Construction employment shows 1,100 more compared to one year ago. Wholesale trade totaled 400 jobs higher than last year.

Four industry sectors registered employment losses annually. Total government employment has declined by 2,300 jobs. Financial activities employment was measured at 1,400 fewer jobs than in March 2004. Leisure and hospitality employment declined by 900 jobs. And the retail trade industry is 600 jobs lower than it was one year ago.

---

Direct questions and comments to:  
**Eric Grosso, State Labor Economist**  
 201 East Washington Avenue  
 Room A400  
 Madison, Wisconsin 53702  
 Phone: 608.266.7034  
 e-mail: [eric.grosso@dwd.state.wi.us](mailto:eric.grosso@dwd.state.wi.us)  
**Find the most current labor market info at**  
<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/oea/>